Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5135

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 6841

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EFIN YO

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR OPIC INSURANCE BY DOW CHEMICAL TO COVER JOINT VENTURE WITH INA

REF: A) APPLICATION FOR OPIC INSURANCE 158-75-248 DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY;
B) STATE 303050

PASS OPIC

- 1. FOLLOWING REPORT PREPARED BY EMBASSY AND MAY BE SUPPLENTED WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL DEVELOPED BY CONGEN, ZAGREB: ON JANUARY 23, 1975 DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY SIGNED A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH INA (INDUSTRIJA NAFTE) FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT VENTURE TO CONSTRUCT ADN OPERATE A MAJOR PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX AT RIJEKA, YUGOSLAVIA.
- 2. THE JOINT VENTURE WOULD PRODUCE A SERIES OF BASIC PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS NEEDED BY THE YUGOSLAV CHEMICAL, PLSTICS, AND SYNTHETIC RUBBER

INDUSTRIES. THESE PRODUCTS CURRENTLY MUST BE IMPORTED BY YUGOSLAIA AT SUBSTANTIAL COST. THIS INVESTMENT WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC BENEFIT, NOTABLY IN IMPROVING YUGOSLAVIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION.

3. DOW CHEMICAL HAS A GOOD REPUTATION IN YUGOSLAVIA, HAVING ALREADY ENTERED INTO A LARGE JOINT VENTURE WITH OKI (ORGANSKO KEMIJSKA INDUSTRIJA) IN THE PETRO CHEMICAL INDUSTRY UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPECTED TO COME ON STREAM IN 1976. REPORTEDLY BOTH DOW AND

ITS YUGOSLAV PARTNER ARE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF THIS JOINT VENTURE.

- 4. GOY APPROVAL HAS NOT YET BEEN GRANTED, AS THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INA AND DOW ARE NOT COMPLETE. THE FEDERAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INDUSTRY EXPECTS COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND REGISTRATION WITH THE COMMITTEE (EQUIVALENT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL) TO TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY, 1976.
- 5. THE INVESTMENT APPEARS TO MEET THE CRITERIA OF SECTION 231 (F) AND (G) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. THE DOW-INA AGREEMENT HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN YUGOSLAVIA AS POTENTIALLY THE LARGEST JOINT VENTURE INVESTMENT IN YUGOSLAVIA TO DATE. THE PROJECT IS IN A PRIORITY AREA OF YUGOSLAV INVESTMENT AND SEEMS TO BE VIEWED HIGHLY FAVORABLY BY FEDERAL AND REPUBLIC GOVERNEMENT OFFICIALS.
- 6. THE INVESTMENT CONFORMS WITH US POLICY TO BROADEN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC OBJECTIONS TO THE JOINT VENTURE AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY OPIC.
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TAGS: EFIN, YO, OPIC, DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY To: STATE

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